



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Responds to Economic Concerns with Small Business Hotline and Community Outreach

MONTPELIER - Small business owners worried about surviving the current economic upheaval have a place to call for free advice: the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Vermont District Office, 802-828-4422, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SBA's business development specialists will listen to callers' concerns and respond directly or refer calls to professional business counselors at the VT Small Business Development Center, VT Women's Business Center or SCORE, a group of business professionals who help entrepreneurs start, build and sustain their businesses.

The advice is free and confidential.

"Concerns about the rapid changes in the economy and availability of credit have been raised by small businesses," said Darcy Carter, SBA Vermont District Director. "We feel it's important to respond to that, not only with the Small Business Hotline but by also launching a series of *SBA Days* around the state to increase public awareness about the free resources available to Vermont's small businesses."

The first *SBA Day* will be Friday, Nov. 7th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Northeastern Vermont Development Association, 30 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury. Staff from the SBA Vermont District Office, the VT Small Business Development Center, SCORE and the VT Women's Business Center will be on-site to discuss and answer questions about business loans and free business counseling. The event is open to the public and free of charge. No appointment is necessary, and people are welcome to stop in anytime.

The next *SBA Day* is scheduled for January 15th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington. As subsequent events are planned, they will be posted on the Vermont SBA website: www.sba.gov/vt. # # #